

Wild and Scenic Rivers

There are no designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the project area. However, the South Fork of the Stillaguamish River is a Forest Plan study River. The section of river from the headwaters to Canyon Creek (approximately 37 miles) was designated as eligible for future designation on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) and eligible under the “Recreational” classification per the Forest Plan (Forest Plan, p. 4-32). It was designated in part because it retains outstandingly remarkable values associated with scenic, recreation, fisheries, wildlife, historic/cultural, and ecological resources. The goal of the NRI is to maintain or enhance these outstandingly remarkable values so that the South Fork’s eligibility status is not compromised.

The vast majority of stands proposed for thinning fall outside of the Wild and Scenic corridor. The VQO for MA 5B Study River is “Retention” within 300 feet to ¼ mile of the seen areas from the river itself and Partial Retention for seen areas beyond the foreground (Forest Plan, p. 4-93). For the Retention VQO, “human activities are not evident to the casual Forest visitor.” The project establishes mitigations related to aquatic conservation resources which stipulates a 100 foot no cut buffer on both sides of the South Fork. Thus, evidence of timber harvest activities will not be visible from the River and management activities will meet both Retention and Partial Retention standards.